

Message Text

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10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 050930Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2704

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0539

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE NATURAL GAS RESERVES

1. NOTICIAS DA BEIRA JULY 2 PUBLISHED FRONTPAGE ARTICLE ENTITLED PANDE GAS SCANDAL, WHICH REPRODUCES DATA ALLEGEDLY TAKEN FROM AMERICAN PUBLICATION DESCRIBED ONLY AS "PETROLEO INFORMACOES" (PRESUMABLY A TRANSLATION OF SOMETHING LIKE PETROLEUM NEWS OR PETROLEUM INFORMATION) TO EFFECT THAT MOZAMBIQUE'S NATURAL GAS RESERVES TOTAL 1,133 BILLION CUBIC METERS, MAKING MOZAMBIQUE NINTH BIGGEST GAS HOLDER IN WORLD. PAPER OBTAINED THIS INFORMATION FROM TABLES PRINTED IN NO. 43/44 (OCT-NOV 1973) ISSUE OF THE BOLETIM DE INFOR- MACAO OF THE BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO, IN LISBON. BNU DOCUMENT, ATTRIBUTED ONLY TO "PETROLEO INFORMACOES", CONSISTS OF TWO TABLES SHOWING, BY COUNTRY, PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS RESERVES AND PRODUCTION FOR 1972.

2. SINCE LOCALLY PUBLISHED OFFICIAL ESTIMATES OF NATURAL
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GAS RESERVES IN PANDE AND TOMANE FIELDS ARE ABOUT 600

BILLION CUBIC FEET (REPEAT, FEET), OR ONLY 17 BILLION CUBIC METERS, THERE IS HUGE DISCREPANCY WHICH NOTICAS DA BEIRA CONCLUDES MUST MEAN THAT THE AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH PROSPECTED THE PANDE AREA (GULF, AMOCO) MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING INFORMATION FROM MOZAMBIQUE.

3. LOCAL GEOLOGY BUREAU REPRESENTATIVE TELLS US 1,133 BILLION CUBIC METER FIGURE PUBLISHED IN NOTICIAS DA BEIRA IS NONSENSE.

4. WE SHOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AS TO REAL SOURCE OF BNU/NOTICIAS DA BEIRA DATA, AND ITS ACCURACY. GIVEN CURRENT ENERGY SHORTAGE, THE CHARGE THAT US IS SOMEHOW HIDING MOZAMBIQUE'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES COULD BE (AS IT HAS BEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES) BOTH POPULAR AND DAMAGING.
REED

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Message Attributes

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